

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/792,321

**Examiner**

Alfred Basichas

**Applicant(s)**

WONG, CHI LAM

**Art Unit**

3749

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 3/2/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

**ALFRED BASICHAS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant claims, among other things, A utility lighter, including a lighter housing having a fuel-storage cavity for storing a liquefied gas therein, an ignition cavity, an operation cavity and the ignition cavity, and an operation slot formed on the lighter housing to communicate the operation cavity to outside, a gas valve upwardly extended from the fuel-storage cavity for release the gas therein when the gas valve is uplifted, an ignition nozzle supported in the ignition cavity and communicated with the gas valve, a piezoelectric unit disposed in the ignition cavity for generating piezoelectricity, wherein the piezoelectric unit has a movable part and a spark generating tip extended towards the ignition nozzle in such a manner that when the piezoelectric unit is compressed, a spark is generated at the spark generating tip for igniting the emitted gas through the ignition nozzle, and a safety device having a pusher button, having a pushing portion, slidably mounted on the lighter housing along the operation slot, wherein when a pushing force is applied on the pushing portion of the pusher button, the pusher button is vertically slid along the lighter housing to lift up the gas valve and to compress the piezoelectric unit at the same time, a restraining latch provided at the operation cavity,

a safety rotor, having a blocking latch, rotatably mounted at the pusher button to move between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein at the locked position, the blocking latch of the safety rotor is aligned with the restraining latch to lock up the pusher bottom from sliding vertically, and at the unlocked position, the safety rotor is rotated at a direction opposite to a sliding movement of the pusher button to drive the blocking latch offset from the restraining latch, such that the pusher bottom is adapted to slide on the lighter housing to ignite the utility lighter, and a resilient element supported at the pusher button to retain the safety rotor at the locked position.

#### ***Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kim (US20050053880), Erdmann (US20040121276), Tsai (US6688879), and Dijkstra (US6669466) all disclose piezoelectric lighters with safety devices reflecting the general background of the art. Nevertheless, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination therewith, does not disclose nor make obvious the combination as claimed by applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Basichas whose telephone number is 571 272 4871. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 571 272 4877. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872 9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tech Center telephone number is 571 272 3700.

August 18, 2005

  
Alfred Basichas  
Primary Examiner